

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to Jennifer Bacigalupi, an assistant in my office, during today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INOUE. I ask unanimous consent that Stephen Tela, a legislative fellow assigned to Senator KENNEDY's office, be accorded floor privileges during today's consideration of H.R. 2658.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent a staff person in Senator BINGAMAN's office be granted privileges during the pendency of this bill. His name is Jonathan Epstein, a congressional fellow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that William Greer and Ryan Pratt of Senator LOTT's office be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHECK TRUNCATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair now lay before the Senate a message from the House on H.R. 1474.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1474) entitled "An Act to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovative in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes", and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Ordered, That the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Oxley, Mr. Bachus, Mr. LaTourette, Ms. Hart, Mr. Tiberi, Mr. Frank of Massachusetts, Mr. Sanders, and Mr. Ford.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendment to the House bill, agree to a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees at a ratio of 3 to 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. JOHNSON as conferees on the part of the Senate.

BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT ACT OF 2003

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 193, S. 764.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 764) to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is taking up and passing the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003, S. 764, a bill to reauthorize an existing matching grant program to help State, tribal, and local jurisdictions purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers.

This bill marks the third time that I have had the privilege of teaming with my friend and colleague Senator CAMPBELL to work on this legislation. We authored the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act of 1998 in response to the tragic Carl Drega shootout in 1997 on the Vermont-New Hampshire border, in which two State troopers who did not have bulletproof vests were killed. The Federal officers who responded to the scenes of the shooting spree were equipped with lifesaving body armor, but the State and local law enforcement officers lacked protective vests because of the cost.

Two years later, we successfully passed the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2000, and I hope we will go three-for-three this time around. Senator CAMPBELL brings to our effort invaluable experience in this area and during his time in the Senate he has been a leader in the area of law enforcement. As a former deputy sheriff, he knows the dangers law enforcement officers face when out on patrol. I am pleased that we have been joined in this effort by Judiciary Chairman HATCH, Judiciary Committee Senators BIDEN, SCHUMER, KOHL and FEINGOLD, as well as five other Senate cosponsors.

Our bipartisan legislation will save the lives of law enforcement officers across the country by providing more help to State and local law enforcement agencies to purchase body armor. Since its inception in 1999, this highly successful Department of Justice program has provided law enforcement officers in 16,000 jurisdictions nationwide with nearly 350,000 new bulletproof vests. In Vermont, 148 municipalities have been fortunate to receive funding for the purchase of almost 1200 vests. Without the federal funding given by this program, I daresay that there would be close to that number of police officers without vests in Vermont today.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003 will further the success of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program by re-authorizing the program through fiscal year 2007. Our legislation would continue the Federal-State partnership by authorizing up to \$50 million per year for matching grants to State and local law enforcement agencies and Indian tribes

at the Department of Justice to buy body armor.

Not only should we reauthorize this program, but also we should work to see that it is fully funded. While the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program funding has been consistently authorized at \$50 million per year, that amount gets whacked in half during the appropriations process. Law enforcement agencies, however, clearly need our help to purchase vests—for the current fiscal year, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership office received funding requests from small jurisdictions, with populations under 100,000, totaling \$59 million—more than double the funds appropriated. The authorizing legislation requires that smaller jurisdictions receive priority funding through this program. Those requests consumed the entire amount of funds available and for the first time ever awards could only be made to small jurisdictions.

We know that body armor saves lives, but the cost has put these vests out of the reach of many of the officers who need them. This program makes it more affordable for police departments of all sizes. Few things mean more to me than when I meet Vermont police officers and they tell me that the protective vests they wear were made possible because of this program. This is the least we should do for the officers on the front lines who put themselves in danger for us every day. I want to make sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

I look forward to Senate passage today of the bipartisan Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act, and I hope the House and the President will promptly act on this lifesaving legislation to help better to protect our law enforcement officers.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 764) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 764

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1001(a)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3793(a)(23)) is amended by striking "2004" and inserting "2007".

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 195, S. Res. 140.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 140) designating the week of August 10, 2003, as "National Health Center Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 140) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 140

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving 13,000,000 people at more than 4,000 health delivery sites, in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system by meeting escalating health needs and reducing health disparities;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 5 low-income babies born in America, 1 of every 8 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 9 people of color, and 1 of every 10 rural Americans, and these Americans would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive care reach out to almost 750,000 homeless persons and nearly 850,000 farmworkers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers have increased the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced between 10 and 40 percent;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money that empowers communities to find partners and resources, and to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, medicare, medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas these health centers are community oriented and patient focused;

Whereas these health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of communities, and work together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas these health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school, and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas these health centers engage citizen participation and provide jobs for 60,000 community residents; and

Whereas the designation of the week of August 10, 2003, as "National Health Center Week" would raise awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of August 10, 2003, as "National Health Center Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2003

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 16. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business, with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the next 15 minutes under the control of Senator MIKULSKI or her designee, provided that following that time, the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 2330, the Burma sanctions bill, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. STEVENS. For the information of all Senators, at the leader's request, following morning business, the Senate will take up H.R. 2330, the Burma sanctions bill, under a 1-hour time agreement. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2658, the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Under the previous order, there will be up to 30 minutes equally divided in relation to the Dorgan amendment and 40 minutes equally divided in relation to the Bingaman amendment. Following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will proceed to three stacked rollcall votes related to the Dorgan amendment, the Bingaman amendment, and the Burma bill.

Therefore, if all debate time is used, the first vote in tomorrow's session will occur at approximately 12:10 p.m., and that vote will be the first in a series of three stacked votes.

Following that series of votes, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2658, the Department of Defense appropriations bill. It is the majority leader's intention to complete action on that bill tomorrow. I share deeply that desire. Therefore, any Members who have amendments are encouraged to contact either me, as the manager of the bill, or Senator INOUE so that they can schedule the appropriate time for the amendment's consideration. I also

inform the Members that votes should be expected throughout the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Missouri, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY FOR BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Further in my capacity as a Senator from Missouri, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, it be in order until 8 o'clock this evening for bill introductions as provided for under the trade promotion authority.

Without objection, that is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 16, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 15, 2003:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KRISTIN J. FORBES, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE RANDALL S. KROZNER, RESIGNED.

HARVEY S. ROSEN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE MARK B. MCCLELLAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT B. CHARLES, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS), VICE R. RAND BEERS, RESIGNED.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

THOMASINA V. ROGERS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 15, 2003:

THE JUDICIARY

LONNY R. SUKO, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 15, 2003, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

WILLIAM PRESTON GRAVES, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2005, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 9, 2003.